

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1        1. (Currently Amended)      A data distribution system comprising:

2                partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source  
3 to a user, said partial data comprising only a part of distribution data, together with attribute  
4 data including the price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided in each at said  
5 user-side;

6                partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a  
7 decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution  
8 means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the  
9 partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the decision-indication at the earliest;  
10 and

11                remaining distribution data distribution means for, upon receipt by the source of a  
12 request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed remaining part of the data  
13 corresponding to the partial data, distributing from the source the remaining distribution data  
14 to the user who has requested the distribution of the remaining data.

1        2. (Currently Amended)      A data distribution system comprising:

2                partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source  
3 to a user, said partial data comprising only a part of distribution data, together with attribute  
4 data including the price of the distribution data, to a storage region provided in each at said  
5 user-side;

6                partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a  
7 decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution  
8 means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, rendering reproducible the  
9 partial data, except for the attribute data, from a time of the decision-indication at the earliest;

10                payment ability judgment means for said source, upon the receipt of a request from  
11 the user side for the distribution of a part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of  
12 the data corresponding to the partial data, judging whether or not the user, who has requested

13 the distribution of the part or the whole of the undistributed remaining part of the distribution  
14 data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution data;

15 requested data distribution means for, when the judgment by the result of the payment  
16 ability judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributing the requested data  
17 from the source to the corresponding user-side;

18 accounting means for the source, when the distribution of the requested data by the  
19 requested data distribution means from the source to the user side has been confirmed,  
20 performing accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

21 requested data reproduction release means for rending the remaining part of the data,  
22 which has been distributed from the source to the user by the requested data distribution  
23 means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on the user  
24 side.

1       3. (Currently Amended)     A data distribution system comprising:

2       partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source  
3       to a storage region provided in each at a user-side, said partial data including only a part of  
4       distribution data for which a time of the start of use has been fixed, together with attribute  
5       data, which can be disclosed before the arrival of the time of start of use, including at least  
6       one of the time of start of use and the price of the distribution data, before the arrival of the  
7       time of start of use;

8       partial data reproduction release means for, when the user indicates to said source a  
9       decision to purchase the partial data distributed from said source by the partial data  
10      preliminary distribution means or a remaining undistributed part of the distribution data,  
11      rendering reproducible the partial data, except for the attribute data, from the fixed time of  
12      the start of use at the earliest; and

13      remaining distribution data distribution means for, after the fixed time of the start of  
14      use, upon receipt of a request from the user side for the distribution of the undistributed  
15      remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, distributing the remaining  
16      distribution data from said source to the user who has requested the distribution of the  
17      remaining data.

1       4. (Currently Amended)     A data distribution system comprising:

2 partial data preliminary distribution means for distributing partial data from a source  
3 to a user, said data comprising only a part of distribution data for which the time of the start  
4 of use has been fixed, together with attribute data, which can be disclosed before the arrival  
5 of the time of start of use, including at least one of the time of start of use and the price of the  
6 distribution data, before the arrival of time of the start of use, to a storage region provided in  
7 each at said user-side;

8 partial data reproduction release means which, when the user indicates to said source  
9 a decision to purchase the partial data distributed by the partial data preliminary distribution  
10 means or the remaining undistributed part of the distribution data, renders the partial data  
11 except for the attribute data reproducible from the time of the start of use at the earliest;

12 payment ability judgment means which, after the fixed time of the start of use, upon  
13 the receipt of a request by the source from the user side for the distribution of a part or the  
14 whole of the undistributed remaining part of the data corresponding to the partial data, judges  
15 whether or not the user, who has requested the distribution of a part or the whole of the  
16 undistributed remaining part of the distribution data, can pay the equivalent to the distribution  
17 data;

18 requested data distribution means which, when the judgment by the payment ability  
19 judgment means is that the user can pay the equivalent, distributes the requested data from  
20 said source to the corresponding user-side;

21 accounting means which, when the distribution of the requested data from the source  
22 to the user side by the requested data distribution means has been confirmed, performs  
23 accounting of the distribution data for the user; and

24 requested data reproduction release means which renders the remaining part of the  
25 data, which has been distributed from said source to said user by the requested data  
26 distribution means upon the completion of the accounting by the accounting means, usable on  
27 the user side.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 1,  
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further  
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution  
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according  
5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1       6. (Currently Amended)     The data distribution system according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio  
3     network.

1       7. (Previously Presented)     The data distribution system according to claim 2,  
2     which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when  
3     the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the  
4     equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and  
5     subtracts an amount of money to be paid from the user's balance to determine a new balance  
6     value.

1       8. (Previously Presented)     The data distribution system according to claim 7,  
2     which further comprises means, for establishing the balance at the time of completion of  
3     accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the  
4     sales code to establish the balance.

1       9. (Previously Presented)     The data distribution system according to claim 7,  
2     wherein a period of validity is provided in the sales code and which further comprises means,  
3     for establishing the balance at a time of no charging, that, when the period of validity has  
4     expired, returns the new balance value, obtained by subtracting an equivalent value from the  
5     balance, to the original value based on recognition that the payment corresponding to an  
6     issued sales code has not been made.

1       10.    (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2,  
2     wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further  
3     comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution  
4     of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according  
5     to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1       11.    (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3,  
2     wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further  
3     comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution  
4     of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according  
5     to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1        12. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,  
2 wherein the remaining distribution data is divided into a plurality of parts and which further  
3 comprises distribution interval regulation means that regulates the interval of the distribution  
4 of the remaining distribution data for each divided unit from the source to the user according  
5 to progress of a reproduction of the distribution data by the user.

1        13. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 2,  
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio  
3 network.

1        14. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 3,  
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio  
3 network.

1        15. (Currently Amended) The data distribution system according to claim 4,  
2 wherein the distribution data are distributed from the source to the user through a radio  
3 network.

1        16. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 4,  
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when  
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the  
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and  
5 subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance  
6 value.

1        17. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 16,  
2 which further comprises means, for establishing a balance at the time of the completion of  
3 accounting, that, when accounting has been performed by the accounting mean, discards the  
4 sales code to establish the balance.

1        18. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system according to claim 2  
2 which further comprises means, for balance processing during sales processing, that, when  
3 the result of the judgment by the payment ability judgment means is that the user can pay the  
4 equivalent, issues a sales code indicating, that sales processing is under execution, and

5     subtracts an amount of money to be paid from a user's balance to determine a new balance  
6     value.